

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

DATE OF NOTICE: August 24, 2020
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: Township of Bensalem
ADDRESS: Community Development Office
2400 Byberry Road
Bensalem, PA 19020
TELEPHONE: 215-633-3602

On or about September 1, 2020, the Township will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of federal Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) to be used for the following projects:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Housing Rehabilitation Program – Township-wide, Multi-Year, Non-Site Specific In order to improve its housing stock over the next five years (FY 2020-FY 2024), the Township of Bensalem will offer deferred payment loans of up to \$15,000 for low and moderate-income residents for rehabilitation of single-family, owner-occupied units. Rehabilitation will include but not be limited to window/door removal and replacement, replacement of flooring, removal/replacement of roof components and gutters, improvements to HVAC systems, improvements to electrical and plumbing systems, improvements to kitchen areas including removal/replacement of cabinets and appliances, improvements to bathrooms including removal/replacement of tubs, sinks, vanities and toilets as well as ADA improvements, improvements to interior walls including new sheetrock and painting, exterior improvements including the installation of vinyl siding and painting, porch improvements and sidewalk/walkway improvement, as well as any other general housing improvement work. The improvements will not increase the structure's capacity and will not involve additions or expansion of the structure.

Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 Broad Level Review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5:

58.35 (a)(3)(i): Rehabilitation of buildings and improvements when the following conditions are met: (i) In the case of building for residential use (with one to four units), the density is not increased beyond four units, and the land use is not changed.

58.35 (a)(4)(ii): An individual action on a project of five or more housing units developed on scattered sites when the sites are more than 2,000 feet apart and there are not more than four housing units on any one site.

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Flood Insurance, Contamination and

Toxic Substances, Floodplain Management, Historic Preservation, Noise Abatement and Control, and Environmental Justice.

Estimated Project Cost: FY2020: \$80,000, FY2020-FY2024: \$400,000 (est.)

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Curb Cut Program – County-wide, Multi-Year, Non-Site Specific This project involves curb cuts for streets throughout the Township to remove architectural barriers for the disabled and improve accessibility. In some cases materials may not be replaced in-kind in order to meet ADA specification or to add aesthetic quality to the project such as decorative brick work or stamped concrete.

Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 Broad Level Review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5:

58.35(a)(1) Acquisition, repair, improvement, reconstruction or rehabilitation of public facilities and improvements (other than buildings) when the facilities and improvements are in place and will be retained in the same use without change in size or capacity of more than 20 percent (e.g., replacement of water or sewer lines, reconstruction of curbs and sidewalks, repaving of streets).

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Contamination and Toxic Substances, Floodplain Management, Historic Preservation, and Environmental Justice.

Estimated Project Cost: FY2020: \$185,353, FY2020-FY2024: \$926,765 (est.)

The activities listed immediately above are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Additional project information is contained in the respective project Environmental Review Record (ERR). The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to the Township of Bensalem, Attn: Community Development Office, 2400 Byberry Road, Bensalem, PA 19020, or by email to wcmorey@bensalempa.gov. The ERR can be accessed online at <http://www.bensalempa.gov/>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Township of Bensalem, Attn: Community Development Office, 2400 Byberry Road, Bensalem, PA 19020, or by email to wcmorey@bensalempa.gov. All comments received by August 31, 2020 will be considered by the Township prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Township of Bensalem certifies to HUD that Joseph DiGirolamo, Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Mayor of the Township of Bensalem, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Township to use CDBG Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Township of Bensalem's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Township of Bensalem; (b) the Township of Bensalem has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76), and shall be addressed to the Philadelphia Regional Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), to CPD_COVID-19EE-PHI@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD Philadelphia via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Joseph DiGirolamo, Mayor